

I am a singer/actor, making my living for over 40 years as voiceover talent and a jazz singer. I am a member of the Board of AFTRA and I am a member of Screen Actors Guild. Clearly, both organizations have a vested interest in the outcome of FCC policies, but more importantly my association with these organizations have informed and educated me to the dangers of media consolidation.

I have performed in literally hundreds of commercials over my career. As a jazz singer, I have sung in clubs in both New York City and Los Angeles and continue to enjoy a large and loyal following. In 2002, after what felt like a lifetime, I finally released my first album/CD.

My CD has been played on many radio stations - small stations. The larger stations mostly reserve their play lists for the wildly famous and/or always famous. If it weren't for college radio, I don't think that after a year I would still see my CD being played. I am thankful to college radio, it gives me hope that I can go back into the studio next year and record again. That, in fact, I am building an audience.

I don't believe the FCC should define local programming. I believe the people who run so-called "local" stations best understand the needs of the communities they serve.

Local News must remain. The idea of having my news come from a tape that was created in a city not my own is absolutely ridiculous to me. And yes, a station should be encouraged to give local musicians an opportunity to be heard also.

I believe that non-programming efforts such as participating in local community activities is what a radio station does to be part of the community. It's not something that should be mandated or should be given extra "points". The station is not trying to get an "A" from the FCC. They are there to be part of their community - the community they live in.

Frankly, pay for play is an evil system, that will always favor the rich and famous and the corporate. It shuts out the young and the independent and helps to create the "sameness" we heard on the radio. It stifles creativity. That being said, I don't think it will ever disappear. It could be contained however. A free concert by an artist is probably not payola, unless, of course, it is. I don't think that record companies should be prevented from buying ads...

Voice tracking is absolute unreasonable and inconsistent with a broadcaster's obligations to serve the local interest? Misleading the public about where a broadcast is originating from is exactly that - MISLEADING THE PUBLIC. It's shameful.

It seems obvious that local playlists only contribute to the sameness of the music. What do we achieve as a nation when the music of a community is stifled? We need the diversity of our music community to grow - not be contained. Remember when we had the Detroit Sound? The cool sound of LA jazz versus New York bebop? Seattle rock vs pineapple rock? I'm so tired of today's radio. I just never listen anymore.

In closing, I'd like to thank the FCC for taking up this matter and giving the American citizen an opportunity to comment.

